

‘‘Pregnant from Kissing’’

Joseph Mack

disinformation in the "Vagenda"

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FIRST DRAFT
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CINDY: 12 yrs old

BOBBY: 12 yrs old, Cindy's boyfriend

FRANCESCA: Cindy's 14yr old sister

FRED: Cindy's father

ELSIE: Cindy's mother

DR JONES: Cindy's family doctor, cheery, sunny disposition (the doctor has to be male, so that Cindy has as many male allies as possible)

7TH GRADERS: all players except Cindy and Bobby, or anyone that's available.

ANNOUNCER: there's lots of scene changes. The announcer keeps the audience in the loop.

In the recently released book, "Vagenda" by Holly Baxter and Lucy Cosslet, the authors describe coming of age as a female in the 1990's in England. One of the chapters is on the disinformation they were fed. One piece of disinformation is that a girl will get pregnant if she kisses a boy when she's having her period. Everyone eventually figures out that this piece is disinformation, but it's death by a thousand cuts trying to figure out what is true and what isn't. Disinformation is a cruel response to children, who are just asking for information about how the world works. Most of us arrive in adulthood with our ideas about being male and female, still filled with large pieces of disinformation.

This sketch is about growing up in a world of disinformation. It's called "Pregnant from Kissing".

"Vagenda", Holly Baxter and Rhiannon Lucy Cosslet, Square Peg, ISBN 9780224095808, the authors also maintain a blog <http://vagendamagazine.com/>

Comic Perspective: disinformation.

The phrase in the Vagenda that triggered writing the script, was "kissing a girl in her period". I used this as the name of the initial version of the script, even though I didn't particularly like it. I could imagine it attracting the wrong sort of attention with a google search. A friend, Steve Carson, said that the name just had to go and suggested instead "Pregnant from Kissing".

"in your period" appears to be British. I've changed it to

‘‘Pregnant from Kissing’’

FIRST DRAFT

having or got
Script advisors: Jocelyn Drum, Steve Carson, Guy.

At rehearsal, a couple of the cast raised the problem that a large fraction of the US population only thinks of Planned Parenthood as an abortion provider. My only contact with Planned Parenthood was to accompany my girlfriend of the time, when she was being fitted with an IUD. As far as I know, Planned Parenthood is about education and contraception. Their role in abortions is only as a provider of last resort. I expect if abortions were available in hospitals, they would be quite happy to relinquish that role. I expect if the govt or the medical profession took on the role of education and providing resources for family planning, that Planned Parenthood would be glad to disband itself.

The script had to be changed to make sure anyone watching the video didn't think Dr Jones was telling Cindy about Planned Parenthood so she could get an abortion. In this sketch, Cindy is not pregnant, she just thinks she is.

In the original I had Dr Jones telling Cindy that the nurse would be asking her to pee on a stick. Being a biochemist, it was obvious to me that this was a pregnancy test. However the cast pointed out that this would not be obvious to the 12 yr old Cindy or to some of the audience. We fixed this up on the night.

Cindy is the main focus of the audience's attention. She has all the emotions.

Bobby is the supportive, reasonable boyfriend. He's doing the best he can with the disinformation he's surrounded by. At no point should he look like he's freaking out about the events. He's going to stick with Cindy no matter what happens.

Cindy's family are living in disinformation. They aren't mean, just clueless. Francesca is a socially pretentious know-it-all older sister, who has it all figured out.

Dr Jones (and Bobby) are Cindy's male allies.

FADE IN

1. EXT. SCHOOLYARD --- DAY

Cindy and Bobby standing together.

ANNOUNCER

School yard.

BOBBY

Hi Cindy. Well here we are, first
(MORE)

CONTINUED

'Pregnant from Kissing'

FIRST DRAFT

BOBBY (CONT'D)
day in 7th grade. How are you
doing? You look a bit glum.

CINDY
Not great Bobby. I'm having my
first period.

BOBBY
Congratulations. Sorry to hear
it's no fun though. Can I kiss
you?

CINDY
Oh no! Don't do that. I'll get
pregnant. Besides, it will be our
first kiss. Can you wait till till
my period is over?

BOBBY
I didn't know you could get
pregnant by kissing, when you have
your period. Our parents kiss
whenever they want. My mom would
be pregnant all the time if that
was true.

CINDY
My older sister Francesca told me.
She's 14 and heard about it in gym
class. It's called abstinence.

BOBBY
It's got to be one of those stories
they tell us to scare us.

CINDY
Well OK, if you're sure.

BOBBY
I've never done this before. Do we
have our eyes open or shut?

CINDY
Beats me. I don't know either.
I've never kissed a boy before.
How about we try it with our eyes
open? That's what my parents do
when they greet each other at the
end of the day.

BOBBY
OK.

They stage kiss. Imagine kissing for the first time as
12yr olds, rather than as Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh in

CONTINUED

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FIRST DRAFT

a movie. You want this kiss to be the kiss that everyone in the audience wishes they'd had as their first kiss. I suggest a nice delicate pucker kiss, that can be seen easily in profile by the audience. You should be standing outside each other's personal zones, rather than inside them like older bf/gf pairs would do. You will both have to lean forward for your faces to meet. Possibly you could start with your noses colliding and then figure out that this doesn't work and try again. I suggest this be done slowly, so it's obvious that you're figuring out what to do and the audience has enough time to remember what they would have liked for their first kiss. Possibly several attempts at kissing before success would give the audience enough time to remember their first kiss. (You want them on the edge of their seats, either cringing or being delighted.) Immediately afterwards, you should smile/laugh and look delighted/happy/pleased with each other.

2. EXT. SCHOOLYARD --- DAY

Cindy at center stage.

ANNOUNCER

a bit later.

Bobby enters from the side talking/exclaiming/waving arms.

BOBBY

Cindy, it's true! I asked my friends. They said you can get pregnant by kissing, when you're having your period.

CINDY

Oh no, Bobby. You didn't tell your friends! Now the whole school will know I'm pregnant.

BOBBY

Don't be ridiculous. They promised not to tell anyone. No-one will ever know.

ANNOUNCER

a bit later again.

3. EXT. SCHOOLYARD --- DAY

Cindy seated, with her peers standing around her. They're all amazed and impressed. No-one is giving her a moralistic hard time. The person playing Cindy should figure out whether she wants to be chagrined (from everyone knowing), mortified, helpless, angry...

CONTINUED

CLASS MATE
Awesome Cindy. You're the first
one in 7th grade to get pregnant.
Is it a boy or a girl? What are
you going to call it?

(Only if Cindy is helpless)

CINDY
Well I didn't know.

4. INT. BEDROOM --- NIGHT

Cindy and Francesca seated.

ANNOUNCER
Cindy's bedroom.

FRANCESCA
Cindy! You let him kiss you, when
you were having your period?

CINDY
Oh Francesca. Do you think I'm in
trouble?

FRANCESCA
Well my friend Suzy went on a
date with a guy and she said all
they did was kiss, and now she's
pregnant.

CINDY
But did she do it when she was
having her period?

FRANCESCA
I didn't ask. Are you going to
tell Mom?

CINDY
Parents are useless. They wouldn't
know what to do.

5. INT. KITCHEN --- EVENING

parents standing

ANNOUNCER
The kitchen.

FRED
Hi Elsie, How's our daughter Cindy
doing in the new school year?

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FIRST DRAFT

ELSIE
She's moody Fred. Her grades have
dropped. She can't get out of bed
in the morning. She stays in her
room all evening and won't come
out. It's not like her at all.
Her colour is different and and she
has a bit of a shine about her.
You don't suppose she's ...

FRED
Pregnant?! Nah! Can't possibly...
She's just a normal young girl
adjusting to a growing body.
Besides, she's only kissed Bobby
once.

ELSIE
OMG. She kissed Bobby? Was that 6
weeks ago? She asked me for some
pads back then.

Fred looks puzzled, indicating that he doesn't recognise
that Cindy was having her period when she kissed Bobby. I
expect this will go over the audience's head. I'll have to
think of something better.

FRED
Yes.

6. INT. BEDROOM --- EVENING

Elsie (Mom) and Cindy

ANNOUNCER
Cindy's bedroom.

CINDY
But Mom, you and Dad kiss all the
time.

ELSIE
Cindy, once you're married, you can
kiss any time you like.

CINDY
Oh.

ELSIE
I've made an appointment with the
doctor.

7. INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE --- DAY

Doctor Jones and Cindy

CONTINUED

ANNOUNCER
Dr Jone's office.

DR JONES
(cheery and helpful)
Hi Cindy, what brings you here?

CINDY
(distraught, tears,
anguish, the full
works from a 12yr
old girl who thinks
she's pregnant
because she did
something she
shouldn't have done
and she should have
known better. This
is the climax of the
piece.)

Dr Jones, I'm pregnant. I kissed
my boyfriend Bobby when I was
having my period. I know we
shouldn't have done that, but
it was our very first kiss and
it was my first period too. We
haven't kissed since, promise, but
I haven't had a period in 2 months
now, so I've got to be pregnant.
The whole school knows. It's a
horrible mess. What can I do?

DR JONES
(concerned and
reassuring, *e.g.*
patting her on the
shoulder)

I see. I don't think you have
anything to worry about. But just
to make sure, the nurse is in the
next room. She'll do a test to see
if you're pregnant. She'll ask you
to pee on a stick; She'll explain
a few things for you and give you
a bunch of pamphlets from Planned
Parenthood. These will explain how
contraception works so that you
know how not to become pregnant
if you don't want to. Make sure
you read them all; give one set to
Bobby and the rest to your friends.
You can go to Planned Parenthood
anytime you like. They're here to
help you with this sort of thing.
Visits are confidential and you

(MORE)

CONTINUED

DR JONES (CONT'D)
don't have to tell your parents
anything about it or that you even
went. You can go by yourself or
with a friend if you want. The
address and phone number is stamped
on all the pamphlets. Got that?

Cindy looks hopeful, overwhelmed and apprehensive. She
hasn't got the results yet and she doesn't know that she's
out of trouble. She doesn't quite know who to believe.

CINDY
(nods hopefully,
blows her nose,
wipes tears away)
Yes. Thank you Dr Jones.

8. EXT. SCHOOL YARD --- DAY

Bobby and Cindy

ANNOUNCER
Schoolyard.

BOBBY
Hi Cindy. So you're not pregnant?!
What a relief.

CINDY
No Bobby, oh thank goodness. Here
read these. They're for you.
They're from Planned Parenthood.

BOBBY
Thanks.

CINDY
Now I'm going to have to tell the
whole school I'm not pregnant.
I'll never live this down. I'm so
embarrassed. On top of that, I
just got my period. If I'd waited
a day, I wouldn't have had to go to
the doctor.

BOBBY
That's no good. Sorry to hear it.
Can I kiss you again?

CINDY
No way! The last time you kissed
me, it was much too scary.

FADE OUT

THE END

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